Boku no Giovanni

by Itozumi

Volume 1 Chapter 4

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Typesetter: hemony
Proofreader: bealovelylady
Editor: hemony
Cover: hemony

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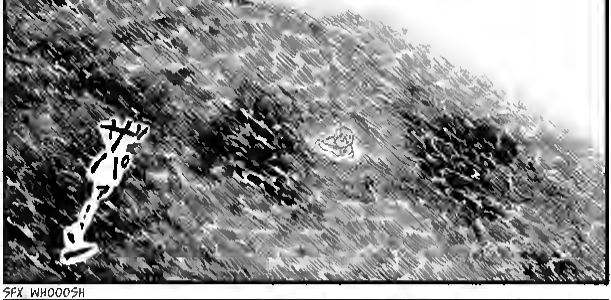
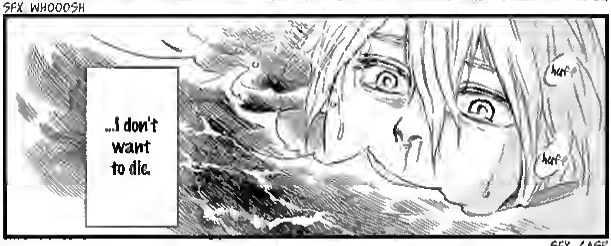
Chapter 4 / Sun

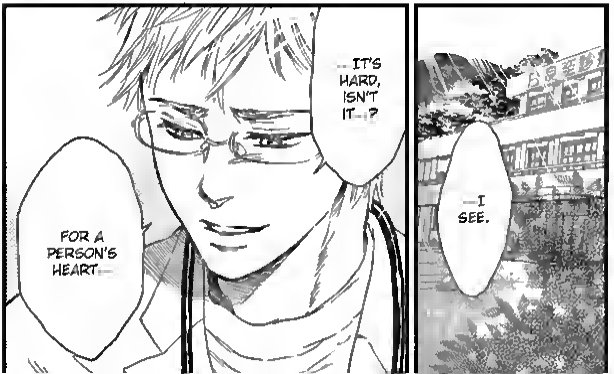

SFX WHOOOSH


...I don't want to die.
kuf
kuf
SFX GASP

I don't want to die.
SFX WHOOOSH

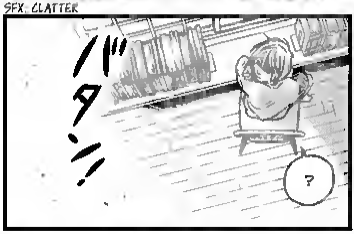
Anyone...
SFX: BAM
Anyone!!!
SFX: SHIFT 2X
(hate
(hate
(hate...

SFX BUZZ SX


—IT'S HARD, ISN'T IT—?
FOR A PERSON'S HEART—
—I SEE.

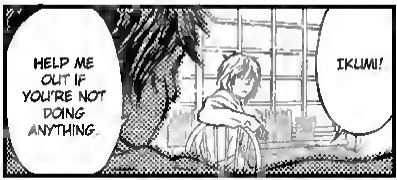
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM...
IT'S GOING TO TAKE A LONG TIME FOR HIM TO RECOVER.
YEAH...
BUT I HEARD HE'S STARTED LEARNING THE CELLO FROM TETSUO-KUN.
MUSIC THERAPY ISN'T A WASTE OF TIME, SO, IF POSSIBLE, I WOULD LIKE IKUMI-KUN TO...
AH.
BUT HE'S ONLY STAYING WITH YOU TEMPORARILY, ISN'T HE?
UM, ABOUT THAT-
I TALKED WITH MY HUSBAND ABOUT IT AND
SFX KSHHH
IF YOU HAVE TIME, I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT IT TOO.
SFX KSHHH

SFX: CLATTER



SFX: CLATTER 2X

SFX: SLAM



AH...
HOW DO I SAY IT
...AIRING, I GUESS?
"AIRING"?
SFX: KSHHH
SFX: STEP SX
OH, IKUMI
WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?
SFX: SHUFFLE ZX

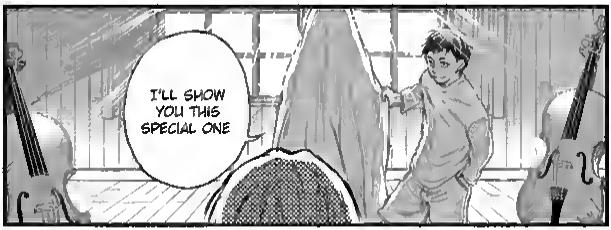
ISN'T IT AMAZING?
THESE ARE CELLOS THAT OUR LATE GRANDFATHER COLLECTED.

HE WAS AN AMATEUR MUSIC HOBBYIST,
A CELLO COLLECTOR.
HE SAW HOW HARD LIFE WAS FOR GRANDMA, SO HE DECIDED ON BECOMING A FISHERMAN. HE HAD A LOT OF PROBLEMS, I THINK.

OUR GRANDPA
There! I've got it!
ONCE OWNED A LOT OF LAND HERE.

IN HIS LATER YEARS, HE SOLD EVERYTHING, INCLUDING HIS LAND.
ONLY THIS HOUSE AND EVERYTHING IN IT WAS LEFT.
BUT, THANKS TO HIM, WE'VE NEVER HAD ANY PROBLEMS WITH FINDING CELLOS.

WHOA
C'MON, IKUMI
THE CELLOS GET RUSTY IN THE SEA BREEZE, SO WE STORE THEM IN CASES.
BUT A FEW TIMES EVERY YEAR, MY BROTHER AND I CHECK THEIR CONDITION.


I'LL SHOW YOU THIS SPECIAL ONE

SLIP
DON'T EVER TELL ANYONE
THAT YOU SAW THIS, OKAY?
HM?

THIS IS A 1740 MONTAGNANA*,
THE "BARON STEINHEIL".
*DOMENICO MONTAGNANA WAS AN ITALIAN MASTER LUTHIER BASED IN VENICE, ITALY. HE IS REGARDED AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S FINEST VIOLIN AND CELLO MAKERS OF HIS TIME. HIS PIECES, PARTICULARLY HIS CELLOS, ARE EXTREMELY SOUGHT AFTER BY ORCHESTRAS, NOTABLE MUSICIANS, AND COLLECTORS, AND MANY FORM PARTS OF COLLECTIONS IN MUSEUMS. PRICES FOR AUTHENTIC PIECES CAN REACH MILLIONS OF US DOLLARS AT AUCTION.

SFX: SLAP
ISN'T IT GREAT? ONE DAY, I'M GOING TO PLAY A COMPOSITION I WROTE WITH THIS-!
OW...
MONTAG-NANA! A CELLO MAKER, THE BEST OF THE BEST!
IT'S THE SAME TYPE OF CELLO THAT CURTIS LESSER* PLAYED ON!
WHAT?
"MON ..."?

*THIS DOESN'T SEEM TO BE AN ACTUAL PERSON, THOUGH THE CELLO HE SUPPOSEDLY PLAYED IS VERY REAL

HE JUST LOOKED AT THE SHAPE AND SAID IT WAS TOO WIDE
IT'S JUST A "MONTAG-NANA-STYLE**", ISN'T IT?
I TOLD YOU THAT GUY'S A FRAUD!
YOU'RE NOT?
AFTER GRANDPA DIED, WE HAD A PROFESSIONAL APPRAISER LOOK AT ALL OF THESE AND HE TOLD US EVERY CELLO HERE IS WORTH NEXT TO NOTHING.

**IT IS VERY COMMON FOR CELLOS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS TO BE MADE IN A SIMILAR STYLE AS FAMOUS ONES SO. BASICALLY, IT'S A KNOCK-OFF

*A STRADIVARIUS IS ONE OF MANY STRINGED INSTRUMENTS BUILT BY MEMBERS OF THE ITALIAN FAMILY STRADIVARI (STRADIVARIUS) DURING THE 17TH AND 18TH CENTURIES ACCORDING TO THEIR REPUTATION. THE QUALITY OF THEIR SOUND HAS DEFIED ATTEMPTS TO EXPLAIN OR EQUAL IT. THE NAME "STRADIVARIUS" HAS BECOME A SUPERLATIVE OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH EXCELLENCE

BUT IT'S HOLDING UP WELL TO THE SEA BREEZE.

AND THIS IS A BRICK HOUSE!!

WOULDN'T STORE THEM WHERE THEY CAN BE DESTROYED BY THE SEA BREEZE.

A REAL CONNOISSEUR WHO LOVES CELLOS

TOO LONG WINDED, TOO LONG WINDED!!

That story

WHEN PEOPLE IN JAPAN PRACTICE AN INSTRUMENT, THEY TRY TO BLOCK THE SOUND AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, BUT THE WAY THE SOUND REVERBERATES IN BRICK WALLS...

AND EVEN THOUGH GRANDPA WAS AN AMATEUR, HE WAS AIMING TO GO PRO, YOU KNOW? AND HE MADE SURE THIS HOUSE WAS BUILT WITH AUTHENTIC ITALIAN STONE!

DAD SAID THESE WERE THE ONLY ONES IN GRANDPA'S WILL THAT WERE NEVER APPRAISED!

BUT-!

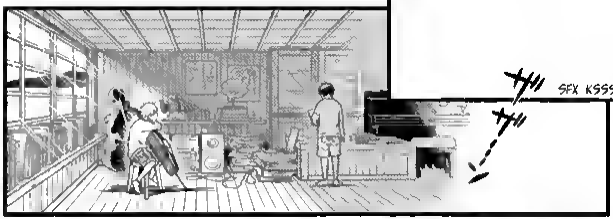
...THAT'S WHY I...

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'LL HAVE STRADIVARIUS* VIOLINS ROLLING AROUND OVER HERE

HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO BELIEVES THAT STORY

SORRY, IKUMI

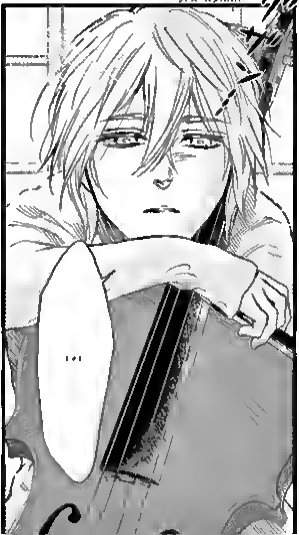
I BELIEVE YOU
HUH?
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS MONTAGNA,
BUT YOU SAID IT, SO I BELIEVE IT
I KNEW YOU WERE THE SMART ONE
UNLIKE THIS FREE-LOADER OVER HERE
HEY, HEY, HEY!
OKAY.
It's "Montagnard" though.

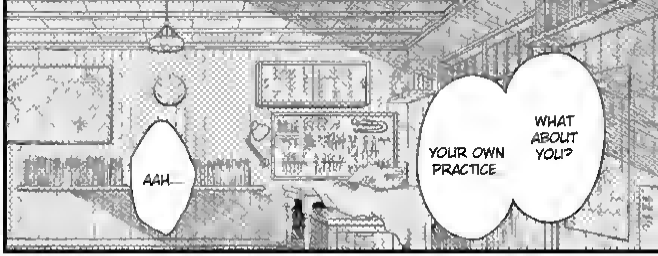

SFX KSSSHHH

Hmm, so what's on the agenda for today?
SFX FLIP ZX3
SFX KSHHH
SFX KSHHH

ARE YOU GONNA BE ALL RIGHT?
HUH?

WHEN WE'RE HERE, I'M THE ONLY ONE PRACTICING.




AAH...
YOUR OWN PRACTICE
WHAT ABOUT YOU?

I SEE.
AND I'M GOING OUT OF TOWN NEXT WEEK FOR PRACTICE.

IT'S FINE; REVIEWING THE BASICS IS PRACTICE FOR ME TOO.

THAT WAS A TOUGH CONTEST, WASN'T IT?
YOU MUST BE REALLY GOOD.

I HEARD YOU WON A CONTEST IN TOKYO
BUT IT'S AMAZING, TETSUO

YEAH
WELL
YOU'RE
A VERY TALENTED KID
WHAT THE HELL'S WITH YOU?!
YOU'RE TREATING ME LIKE AN IDIOT!
NO
I REALLY THINK IT'S AMAZING
THE SMELL OF BEING RAISED BENEATH THE SUN
—THE SUN?
YOU SMELL LIKE THE SUN, TETSUO.
WITH A WARM FAMILY
WHO VALUES YOU.

TO TALENT-LESS OLD ME...
YOU'RE ALL KIND
WITH DREAMS
OF YOUR OWN
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
AH
SORRY

TE-TSUO?
THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL
THAT'S WHERE I DRAW THE LINE SO DON'T
IT JUST
MAKES ME SAD ...
TETSUO
I TOLD YOU NO ONE KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT THE CELLO, EVEN IN MY TROUPE AT SCHOOL
AND MY BROTHER... DOESN'T EVEN WANT TO PLAY THE CELLO ANYMORE
AND THEN YOU SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT

IF YOU START SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT TOO..
I...
THE LONELINESS OF A GENIUS

HUH?
STOP CARING ABOUT THOSE PEOPLE WHO DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU
THEY'RE ALL IDIOTS
THAT'S WHY I...
BUT

SFX: KSHHH

GENIUSES ARE PEOPLE TOO

TETSUO,
I'LL LIVE MY LIFE WITH YOU.

I'LL BE WITH YOU FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.

WHAT
I'M SURE THERE WILL BE TIMES WHEN YOU'LL BE JEALOUS,
WHEN YOU CAN'T GET PEOPLE TO UNDER-STAND YOU,
OR WHEN PEOPLE MISUNDER-STAND YOU.
THERE MAY BE TIMES WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE YOU CAN'T EXPRESS YOUR FEELINGS TO OTHERS

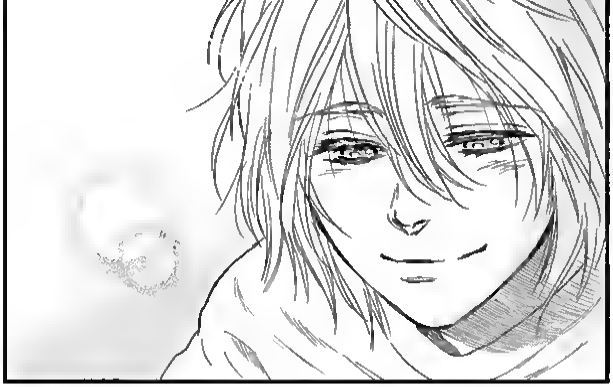
SFX KSHHH 2X
BUT I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO WILL NEVER BETRAY YOU
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, FROM NOW ON,
I'LL NEVER LEAVE YOU ALONE

I PROMISE.
HM?
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH IT?
...YOUR JAPANESE IS WEIRD
...
THERE'S NOTHING REALLY WRONG ...
REALLY?
SFX TURN
I SEE.
BUT NO ONE SAYS THINGS LIKE THAT NORMAL-LY...
BUT...

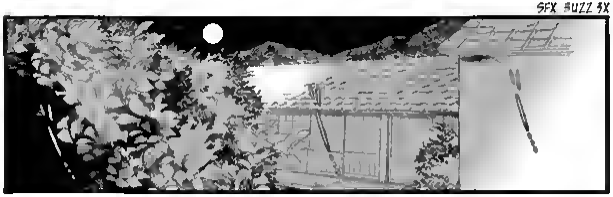
THANK YOU...

THANK YOU,
IKUMI...

I WONDER WHAT'S FOR DINNER?
AHHHH, I'M HUNGRY!
ガラガラ
SFX OPEN



SFX BUZZ SX

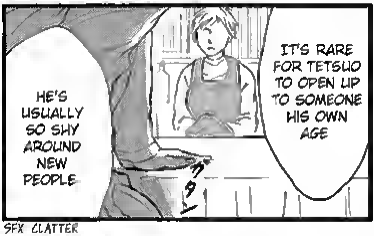


WHAT'S THE MATTER?
Really? You're wandering over there
HEY, ARE YOU GONNA CARRY THAT ALONE?
I'M FINE.

...I SEE.

AH, HE SAID HE'S GOING TO SLEEP IN IKUMI'S ROOM TONIGHT.
THEY'VE REALLY GOTTEN CLOSE
WELL...

...WHAT'S WRONG?

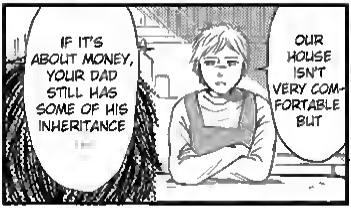

IT'S RARE FOR TETSUO TO OPEN UP TO SOMEONE HIS OWN AGE
HE'S USUALLY SO SHY AROUND NEW PEOPLE

SFX: CLATTER

WHAT?
I'VE TALKED TO YOUR DAD, TOO
CLATTER

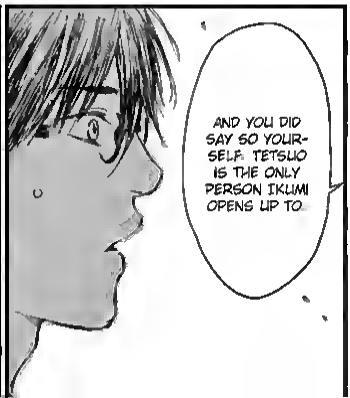
I GUESS I'LL SAY THIS TO YOU NOW.

I'M THINKING OF PERMANENTLY TAKING IN IKUMI TO OUR HOME.

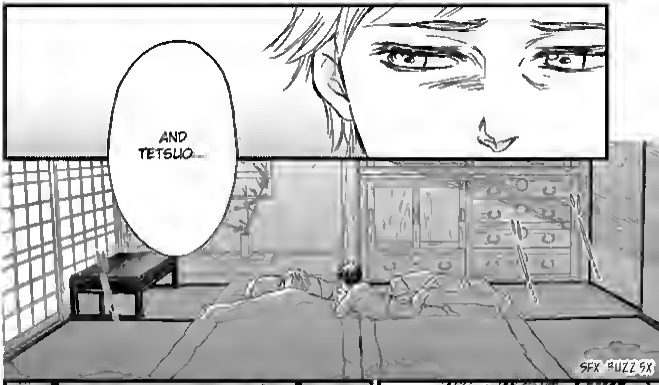

IF IT'S ABOUT MONEY, YOUR DAD STILL HAS SOME OF HIS INHERITANCE
OUR HOUSE ISN'T VERY COMFORTABLE BUT

HUH?

IT WOULD BE CRUEL
TO SEPARATE HIM FROM TETSUO WHEN HE'S JUST LOST HIS MOTHER.


AND YOU DID SAY SO YOURSELF. TETSUO IS THE ONLY PERSON IKUMI OPENS UP TO.

IF WE SEPARATE THEM,
THEY'RE GOING TO BE HURT ...
BOTH IKUMI


AND TETSUO...
SFX BUZZ SX

IKUMI.
SFX ZZZ ZX

SFX ZZZ ZX

YOU SLY FOX.
SFX: BUZZ 4X